

Subject: [DPNeBlast] Rebuttal to Village Newsletter, Open Letter from Keith Olson, Unofficial voting record

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Conversation: Rebuttal to Village Newsletter, Open Letter from Keith Olson, Unofficial voting record

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Greetings, Neighbors

DATELINE, DEER PARK, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2009

*****>>This is an actual eBlast, this is NOT an April Fool's joke!<<*****

REBUTTAL TO SPRING NEWSLETTER FROM THE VILLAGE

Deer Park's corporate newsletter arrived in our mail Monday, and it's down to just four pages, a worthy economy for the village budget. But while you may call us cynical, but in our opinion, one item in the newsletter was very misleading and may cross over the line into electioneering.

On page three, at the top, what appears to be simple information on the upcoming election, there is a clear bias. John Lahr's name as a candidate for Trustee is **CROSSED OUT** and an asterisk refers to the following statement:

"* Although his name will appear on the ballot, Mr. Lahr resigned his candidacy for Village Trustee for personal and private reasons as of March 17th. Please vote for three of the five remaining candidates." (our emphasis)

In fact, YOUR ballot will list six names for Trustee; the County Clerk has NOT removed any name. . **The Cook County Ballot reads, "Vote for 3"; the Lake County Ballot reads "VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN THREE."** Sample ballots are posted at our elections page.

<http://deerparkneighbors.com/pages/election.html>

We called the Lake County Clerk ourselves, and YES, you can cast a vote for John Lahr, if you so choose. They also said that every vote for Lahr will be counted and that if Lahr were elected, the successful presidential candidate will, after being sworn in, appoint his choice to fulfill Lahr's term. By the way, should

Bob Kellermann be elected, he will appoint another person to fulfill his own remaining two years as Trustee.

SO WHERE'S A CITIZEN TO TURN?

We can tell you from personal experience yesterday, without an Ethics Officer, **a resident has zero recourse** when we believe our civil liberties are being trampled, or when we see conflicts of interest or any other excesses.

We called both the County Clerk and the Lake County State's Attorney's office. Both advised that we could contact the village Ethics Officer. Except we don't have one! DPN has specifically asked for an ethics officer to be appointed, on many occasions since 2/06. President Gifford has answered, when asked, that an ethics officer is not required by municipal code or by state law. That's true. However, it IS provided for in the VODP code.

This very question about ethics was asked of candidates at the League of Women Voters' Candidate Forum several weeks ago. We were informed verbally—nothing in writing—by the Gifford campaign that they would not participate in any forum with DPN and that DPN would NOT be permitted to film the League forum. As it turns out, the League had no policy against filming, only against using images in campaign literature.

So, we have only our extensive hand-written notes to share, but in many cases, our notations are verbatim (as indicated below by quotation marks).

QUESTION?:“Would you support the appointment of an Ethics Officer and an Emergency Management Coordinator?” For now, we're describing the answers only regarding ethics. In the order of responses:

Bill Michael: “I'd support looking into it.” Bill then mentioned that he had served on an ethics panel, and his overall point was that it should be a panel, not a single person.

Dale Sands: Dale has worked to develop “Ethics Awareness Training,” a program to train officers and staff. “It's something that's essential.”

Bob Kellermann: “An ethics officer would be a plus. It creates an environment on all sides.”

Scott Gifford: “It is not required. Ansel, Glink [Village Attorney’s firm] recommended against it.”

Joyce Trost-Beattie: “I would not support an ethics officer. Ethics is too subjective.”

Keith Olson: “Yes to an Ethics Officer.”

Bill Koutsis: “How can you say an ethics officers isn’t appropriate in Illinois? It is absolutely fundamental.”

President Gifford is of course free to publish his advice to voters, but he may NOT do so from Village Hall using village funds. Certainly, he already has the advantage of a **bully pulpit**. You’ve heard the term but if you don’t know the definition, according to Wikipedia, “is a public office of sufficiently high rank that provides the holder with an opportunity to speak out and be listened to on any matter.”

An public official demonstrates restraint by treading very lightly. Using the front page of the newsletter to put the best face on village events is just public relations; Residents have access to attending the meeting and reading the approved official minutes. DPN and other news organizations offer some balance.

But to use the newsletter to misdirect potential voters is simply wrong. We hope that one of the trustees will have the courage to confront this at the April meeting. In the meantime, we urge you to watch your eBlast for the DPN Endorsements, which will be distributed Wednesday evening.

We also hope that our Village Clerk and President Gifford’s slate mates were completely unaware of the impact of that section of the newsletter. As far as we know, all are new to the election process, while President Gifford is a veteran of political campaigns.

We welcome YOUR comments on this occurrence, and will update you when/if we hear from any officials regarding our complaint.

7 DAYS COUNTING DOWN TO ELECTION

For more than 3 years, Deer Park Neighbors, Ltd., has followed its mission: Community Education, Community Action. Through this enterprise, we have

worked to create a forum for dialogue, to welcome all points of view. We see enormous progress, although we are still saddened and frustrated to see that a number of residents are afraid to speak their minds: “The village could do something to us!”

People actually believe that the Village would refuse a permit or get the cops to issue tickets or enforce the municipal code selectively against any resident with an opposing point of view.

Well, if YOU believe that is even a possibility, then you must pay attention to this election, the one opportunity in the next 4 years to change this village from the top down. For those of you who are new to this eBlast, Deer Park Neighbors officers have attended almost every open village meeting since mid-2005; since Feb. 2006, all but a couple of meetings have been recorded and archived at the Barrington Area Library. We have also archived other materials to help you get to know your village. In other words, “Been there, done that.” And we have always been OPEN TO ALL POINTS OF VIEW, as we are during this campaign. We will publish ONLY with attribution; in other words, we do not publish anonymous opinions.

You still have time to ask all the candidates the tough questions; contact information is available on our Election page: <http://deerparkneighbors.com/pages/election.html>, updated almost daily. We also archive our emails at http://deerparkneighbors.com/DPN_eBlasts; don't forget to click on the link “Name” to sort the list to bring the most recent eBlasts to the top.

For back issues of the Deer Park Neighbors' eBlasts, please visit our web site, <http://deerparkneighbors.com>, where you can also get updated information about the upcoming election, link to shopping and business consultants, even see the current weather!

CAMPAIGN WEB SITES:

Gifford Slate: <http://VoteDeerPark.com>

Kellermann Slate: <http://SaveDeerPark.net>

Please note the Kellerman site ends in the extension “.net” The .com site belongs to someone else, and has nothing to do with the Kellermann slate.

By the way, as soon as the Gifford web site was launched, Deborah registered to receive the campaign newsletter. Since that launch, many weeks ago, she has not received a single message. We would be eager to hear from any of you who

are successfully receiving updates from that site.

OPEN LETTER FROM KEITH OLSON, CANDIDATE FOR TRUSTEE

To my fellow Deer Park residents;

I'm running for Trustee for several reasons. I'm not a "politician" by nature, but what tipped the scales in terms of my deciding to declare my candidacy was a sense of necessity. We need to restore financial responsibility to Deer Park. Along with that we need to improve the responsiveness of Village Hall to the needs of the residents, and make sure our government is acting in ways we approve of, and know about. These things have been abundantly lacking over the past 5 years, and if you do not share my alarm, please look at the information on both Deerparkneighbors.com and Savedeerpark.net.

I moved to Deer Park in 2006 so I'm relatively new to Deer Park, but I love my home and want to spend many good years enjoying the surroundings, and the company, which Deer Park offers. While our village is a fine place now, we can improve on our roads, drainage, parks and more.

I'm of the opinion that we need to pursue a variety of programs to help make ourselves more resistant to major power outages, and / or loss of natural gas delivery. Those issues will be some of my priorities, but I can be helpful in several other areas.

I'd be happy to work with the Village staff to improve the functionality of their accounting and "resident issue" handling procedures. That is the sort of thing I've done professionally.

We could benefit from having a good video about Deer Park, for promotional purposes. This is also the sort of thing I've done professionally. You can see some of my work on www.portraitsofchicago.com <<http://www.portraitsofchicago.com>> .

Most importantly though, I share with Bob Kellermann and Dale Sands the opinion that we will not have responsible, responsive and accountable leadership unless there are changes in Village government. This is a nice little Lake County village, but we've been getting submerged in the kind of dirty politics, behind the scenes deal making and generally bad government which characterizes Cook County. It doesn't have to be that way. I'm an honest man with unbending devotion to clean government, as are my running mates, and we offer Deer Park a much needed change in political philosophy.

So please examine what has been happening, over the past 5 years, and during this campaign. I didn't understand the nature of our dilemma until our slate were challenged, in what I can only describe as underhanded, deceitful and dirty political tactics. I didn't understand the degree to which inappropriate behavior by our leaders has been costing us vast sums of money, until the past few months. But having come to a clearer understanding of what has been happening, my choice to join the Kellermann slate was an easy one. I can only hope that the people of Deer Park will examine the evidence and come to the same conclusions that I have come to. If they do, they will elect Kellermann, Olson and Sands. Casting a vote for John Lahr can be a useful decision too, as his spot, should he win, can be filled by the new President, Bob Kellermann, by appointment, and thus add one more Trustee to the reformers team.

This DPN eBlast, which is archived at our website, is available to anyone, as long as they provide attribution.

MAKING VEHE MAKE MONEY!

Al has a great idea. Hold traffic court at Vehe. Once the Kildeer Police have vetted the tickets booked via the Red Light programs (you do know, there are to be cameras at Long Grove/Rand and at LakeCook/Quentin), anyone who wants to contest the ticket can come to court at the Barn. The village could charge \$50 or more "court fees," and better, \$20 for parking. Al says, "Let's learn a lesson from rural speed traps everywhere!. They know how to treat speeders!"

HOW TO REVIEW THE VOTING RECORDS OF PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEES

We have posted four documents, two years each of board votes in both an Excel and a PDF version. The PDF is static, but the Excel is sortable. You will need to **DOWNLOAD** the Excel documents to your computer to sort, but you will **NOT** be able to save changes. If you are not familiar with Excel, click on the little double arrow at the top of each column and sort by, for example, date. (You can also do this through the menu, and can set up a sort by multiple criteria.) However—and this is very important—after each sort, you must go under **Data>>Filter>>Show All** after each sort, in order to go back to square one. If "Show All" is greyed out, then all the records are viewable. The documents are set up as ledger (tabloid), 17inch wide by 11inch high, and goes to many pages. For those of you who aren't regular Excel users, we recommend the Acrobat version, and when it's up on your screen, you can zoom in or out.

So, to see the UNOFFICIAL record of votes, please visit our home

page or:

<http://deerparkneighbors.com/pages/election.html>

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DPNeBlast mailing list

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